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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

1. During its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General of 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1) to serve as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In section VII of the annex, entitled "Coordination, review, appraisal and reporting", the General Assembly decided that:

> "27. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly every three years during the Decade a report on action taken, as well as on suggestions and trends that emerge from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies on implementation of the plan of action.
>
> "28. The Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a final report on the achievements of the Decade."

2. The present progress report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 27 above. Information on specific activities in the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism may be found in the annual reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.[1] The Special Committee, the policy-making organ of the General Assembly regarding decolonization, has been at the forefront of United Nations efforts to implement the plan of action for the International Decade. In this connection, during the past few years, the activities carried out by the Special Committee in pursuance of its programme of work have included efforts to encourage the cooperation and participation of Member States, particularly the administering Powers, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and international institutions, to work towards achieving the objectives of the International Decade and to extend all necessary assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the various resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. The Special Committee has carried out a review of the situation in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories each year, based on the information transmitted by the administering Powers under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and on information provided by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the hearings and the regional seminars held by the Special Committee.

4. Regional seminars were held by the Special Committee in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions in alternate years to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action. The seminars included the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected

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representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts. Nine regional seminars have been held to date: Vanuatu (1990), Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993 and 1996), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997), Fiji (1998) and St. Lucia (1999).

5. The Economic and Social Council has considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations every year and has adopted resolutions asking the specialized agencies to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in economic and social sectors of the Territories. Furthermore, in an ongoing effort to strengthen coordinated action, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee have held consultations to consider ways and means of strengthening international assistance for economic and social development to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Reports on these consultations and on the activities of the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations with regard to assistance they provide to the Non-Self-Governing Territories have been submitted annually by the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council.[2]

6. In the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, information on decolonization has been disseminated through all available media, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to publicize the work of the United Nations in this field, particularly that of the Special Committee. Information about the International Decade and on the regional seminars convened by the Special Committee on questions related to the Non-Self-Governing Territories has been made available through press releases and by electronic means to United Nations information centres and services worldwide. A detailed account of these activities is presented annually by the Department of Public Information to the Special Committee, which in turn devotes a section of its report to the General Assembly to the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization.[1]

7. In accordance with paragraph 28 quoted above, which forms part of the plan of action of the International Decade, it is my intention to present a detailed final report on the achievements of the Decade to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The report will include a review of the action taken during the Decade as well as the trends that have emerged from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies on the implementation of the plan of action, in consultation with and with the cooperation of member States, other organizations of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other international institutions.

Notes

[1] A/46/23, A/47/23, A/48/23, A/49/23, A/50/23, A/51/23, A/52/23, A/53/23 and A/54/23.

[2] A/46/229, A/47/281, A/48/224 and Add.1, A/49/216, A/50/212, A/51/212, A/52/185, A/53/130 and Corr.1, A/54/119, E/1991/116, E/1992/85, E/1993/98, E/1994/114, E/1995/85, E/1996/85, E/1997/81 and Add.1, E/1998/76 and E/1999/69.